

SBC Restaurant Group
Testimony on SB 436 AAC Municipal Revenue
March 15, 2010

Senator Daily, Representative Staples and distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, my name is David Rutigliano I am executive chef / owner of the SBC Restaurant Group LLC, with restaurant locations in Branford, Hamden, Milford, Southport and Stamford. We have been in business in CT for over fourteen years and employ just under 300 people.

There are many issues that we are following in the Legislature, among them is Senate Bill 436, An Act Concerning Municipal Revenue.

In these uncertain economic times, a year in which 94,000 jobs have been lost in CT and 13,400 business have closed throughout the state, do we really want to unleash a system of new taxation; that would further erode our ability to create jobs.

This would be a chaotic system that further drives up the cost of doing business, and adds a level of uncertainty to an already suppressed job creation market.

These new taxes will not take the place of state taxation they will instead be added to an already oppressive tax burden. I submit to you that this is a veiled attempt for the state to raise taxes without having to say it.

Allowing a municipality or region to impose its own occupancy tax, food and beverage tax or amusement tax would make that hotel, restaurant or attraction less competitive with respect to other businesses located in Connecticut or outside the state.

Furthermore, in a time when CT should be fighting for every job, and trying to attract as many business as possible this is the wrong message to be sending out to potential employers. I submit to you that this would be yet another reason not to relocate here, start here, or stay here.

Thank you for your time. I am happy to answer any questions.